

## NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Block Island School

November 19, 2012

7:00 p.m.

The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Monday, November 19, 2012, in the media center of the Block Island School. Superintendent Robert Hicks called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present: Elizabeth Connor, Patricia Doyle, Ann Hall, and William Padien. Christopher Willi was not in attendance.

### **Annual Meeting**

William Padien was nominated for chairperson by Elizabeth Connor; the nomination was seconded by Ann Hall. Being no further nominations, the vote was 4-0 to approve William Padien as the chairperson.

Elizabeth Connor was nominated for secretary by William Padien; the nomination was seconded by Patricia Doyle. Being no further nominations, the vote was 4-0 to approve Elizabeth Connor as secretary.

Policy DCD: Contacting Legal Counsel requires the appointment of one person on the School Committee to coordinate requests for assistance from the appointed legal counsel. A motion (Connor, Hall) to appoint the chairperson to coordinate requests for assistance from the appointed legal counsel carried with a vote of 4-0.

### **Approval of Minutes**

A motion (Padien, Connor) to approve the minutes of the meeting held on October 15, 2012, as written carried with a vote of 4-0.

### **Reports**

Ann Hall stated that at the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting it was requested that the school look into better wireless access. Mr. Hicks reported that this work is being done by the State of Rhode Island and should be completed this year.

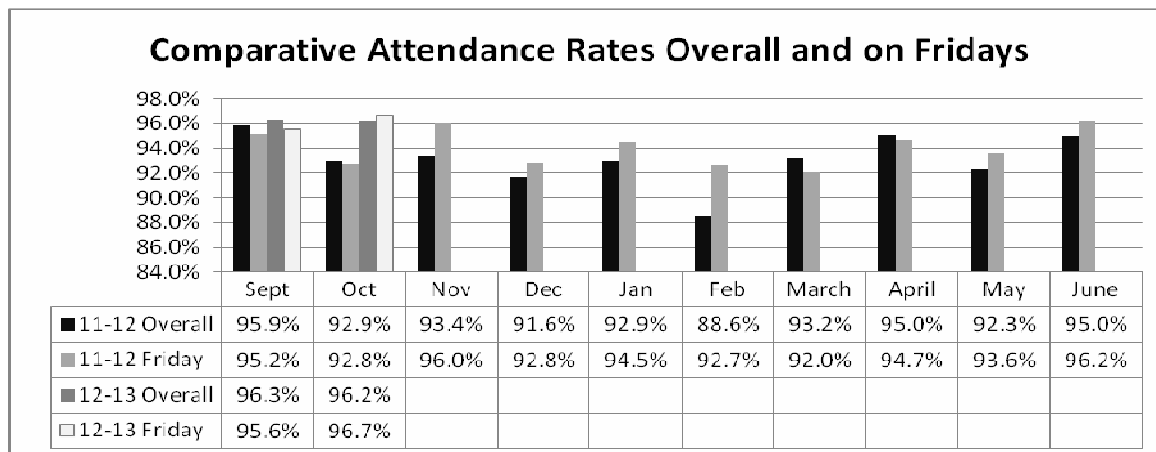
Mrs. Hall requested that a 220 electrical line be installed in the exercise room for a donated treadmill. Mr. Hicks stated he had never seen a treadmill that requires a 220 line, but will look into it.

Elizabeth Connor reported that the Block Island School Friends' raffle, The Twelve Days of Christmas, will begin this week with flyers being sent home with the students. The tickets are \$5 each and a different winner will be chosen on each of the 12 days.

William Padien reported that Sean McGarry was elected to the Town Council and our new committee member, Christopher Willi will attend next month's meeting. Mr. Willi had a previous commitment this evening.

Mrs. Hall thanked Mr. Hicks for being on-island during the hurricane. She felt this was above and beyond his duties to the district.

Mr. Hicks explained that the comparative attendance rate for this year shows an increase in attendance over last year for both Fridays and overall. It is tracking about two to three percent higher than last year. He is anxious to see if the trend continues in November and particularly in December when basketball season is in full-swing.



Mr. Hicks reported that November 12 was a professional development/work day for the faculty. Those who teach math (grades K-5 and high school math) continued working on lesson plans. The remaining teachers focused on the implementation of the common core state standards in English/Language Arts. Two representatives from East Bay Educational Collaborative were on hand to deepen the understanding of the literacy standards and the instructional shifts required. A small part of the afternoon was devoted to the implementation of the Aspen data system, specifically grading and report cards.

Mr. Hicks explained the two capital improvement projects (façade repair and replacing the black membrane roof on the secondary and elementary/middle grades portions of the building) that were submitted to the town on behalf of the school. The façade repair has been on the radar screen for quite a while, but the roof was added, not because it is necessary now, but because it is likely to arise in the coming years.

The standing of accounts through October 31, 2012, was submitted for School Committee information. It is still early in the year, but there do not seem to be any major problems. A motion (Padien, Connor) to accept the fiscal report through October 31, 2012, carried with a vote of 4-0.

### **Old Business**

A motion (Padien, Connor) to approve Policy BAA: Duties and Management Principles as posted for the required 30-day period carried with a vote of 4-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to approve Policy BAE: Committees of the School Committee as posted for the required 30-day period carried with a vote of 4-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to approve Policy BAG: Orientation of School Committee Candidates as posted for the required 30-day period carried with a vote of 4-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to approve Policy BAL: Goals and Objectives as posted for the required 30-day period carried with a vote of 4-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to approve Policy BAM: Meetings as posted for the required 30-day period carried with a vote of 4-0.

### **New Business**

Mr. Hicks reported that Policy FBF: Graduation Requirements had been updated based on the discussion held at the October meeting. A motion (Connor, Padien) to post Policy FBF: Graduation Requirements for the required 30 days carried with a vote of 4-0.

Mr. Hicks started the discussion regarding the reorganization of the administrative structure. His proposal would reduce the number of 90-day co-principals from two to one and create a full-time co-principal/director of curriculum and instruction position. The benefits include an experienced and cost-effective co-principal with a 90-day contract, a full-time resident co-principal to provide continuity, expanded coverage (the full-time person would not have a limited number of work days), improved communication and consistency, and a support structure with the capacity to address the current work load. There would be an added cost because of the increase in staffing. Mr. Hicks submitted several cost scenarios depending on whether the full-time co-principal position is filled in-house or externally. He feels this is an excellent time to review our status and recommends having discussions at upcoming school committee meetings and providing school staff, parents, and community members opportunities to voice their concerns and/or suggestions. This item will appear on the next several School Committee agendas. Members, who wish to discuss this further and before the next meeting, should make an appointment with Mr. Hicks.

### **Calendar of Events**

The next regular meeting of the School Committee is scheduled for Monday, December 17.

### **Adjournment**

A motion (Padien, Connor) at 8:37 p.m. to adjourn carried with a vote of 4-0.

Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk

Date approved: December 17, 2012